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Fwd: Capitol Watch 1.10.18 - It's Not a Matter of If, but When

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com> Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 2:15 PM
To: Dara Thompson <dthompson@panaschools.com>

January 22 Regular Board Meeting packet

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **IASA** <iasa@iasaedu.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 1:26 PM

Subject: Capitol Watch 1.10.18 - It's Not a Matter of If, but When

To: jbauer@panaschools.com



January 10, 2018

It's Not a Matter of If, but *When*

What began as a simple, technical change to the Invest in Kids Act, ended up being the first shake up of the political season.

On Monday, Governor Rauner issued an amendatory veto for Senate Bill 444, a supplementary bill to the evidence-based funding bill passed last summer. This amendatory veto came as a surprise since SB 444 was touted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to clarify technical issues within the new formula and it passed the Illinois House unanimously and was supported by numerous education associations. Many school administrators are now concerned about a possible delay in the new tier funding they were promised.

Currently, school districts are receiving their base minimum funding, the same amount as the previous year, hold harmless, special education and bilingual funding. However, we are now into the third quarter of the school year and school districts have yet to receive any new tier funding. ISBE said the new funding should start sometime this spring, but the \$350 million question is *when*?

The Governor explained his veto was not to sabotage the new school funding and that he supports the intent of SB 444, but believes it can be implemented better. He states, "the current drafting of the law will stand in the way of effectively and fairly implementing the very programs it creates, and should be cleaned up along with the other fixes to Senate Bill 1947."

In the amendatory veto, the Governor addresses a controversial provision which allows individual income tax credits for scholarship donations to private schools. The new funding law requires private schools to be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The amendatory veto would only require that a school be registered with ISBE.

The difference between recognition and registered is recognition necessitates the school's curriculum to align with state standards, health and safety checks are done and ISBE investigators come to the school every few years. Registered means schools submit plans to follow curriculum standards, among other things, but they are not obliged to do so.

State Senator Andy Manar, sponsor of the bill, said in a statement "Here's what Gov. Rauner accomplished....: absolute chaos while undoing all of the equity components in the school funding reform legislation that he takes credit for passing. I am perplexed and puzzled by the motivations of this governor who claims to care deeply about

public education in Illinois. "Why would he veto a bill that he sought in the first place?"

The General Assembly will be back in session January 30th and they have three options in response to the amendatory veto. They can accept the changes by a simple majority vote, override the changes with a 3/5ths majority vote or not act at all and the bill dies. We urge the General Assembly to make this their first priority so the children of Illinois do not have to wait any longer for the money that is owed to them.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with the Comptroller's Office for the release of MCAT payments, early childhood and CTE funding. We understand that the Invest in Kids Act is a major overhaul in school funding and will take some time to implement, but we do not need any delays or distractions. IASA is committed to working with the ISBE and the Comptroller's Office to ensure each district gets what they are lawfully due.

Consequently, political games have infused many parts of our lives, but the well being of our children should not be collateral damage.

We will keep you updated as this unfolds. Stay tuned!

Diane L. Hendren
Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators

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